

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The undersigned attorney appreciates the Examiner's willingness to conduct a telephonic interview regarding this application on August 29, 2006. During the interview the undersigned attorney and the Examiner discussed the current claim rejection of record. The undersigned attorney proposed the amendments provided herein to the specification and the drawings presented herein and the Examiner stated that he would take these amendments under advisement and reevaluate the current written description rejection of claims 1-12.

REMARKS

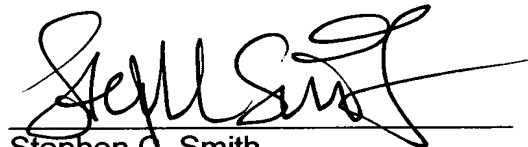
Claims 1-12 are pending in the application and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the Applicants, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner stated, by way of example, that there is no support in the original disclosure for the recitation of the first end of the take up pipe. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The as-filed specification and drawings disclosed all of the structure of the current claims of this application sufficiently to show that the Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Specifically, FIGS. 6-8 are perspective views of the filter assembly showing the take-up pipe (20) with an end coupled to the filter (32) through a swivel coupling (30) that is carried by the take-up pipe (20). The as-filed specification stated that "[w]ith attention to Figures 6-8 the return pipe 20 is attached by coupling 30 to a filter 32 in the bottom of pan 18." As-filed specification, page 7. The Examiner is directed to compare the orientation of pipe 20 in FIG. 7, where the pipe (20) is engaged with the guide bracket (shown as element 28 in FIG. 5) with FIGS. 6 and 8 where the pipe (20) is not engaged with the guide bracket. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood that the coupling (30) allows the pipe (20) to swivel with respect to the guide bracket and the filter (32).

FIGS. 6-8 (Replacement sheets 3-4, attached in Appendix 1) have been amended to include element 20a to designate the first end of the pipe (20) as claimed. As discussed above, FIGs. 6-8 clearly show that an end of the pipe (20) is mounted to the swivel coupling (30). With reference to the as-filed application, one of skill in the art would have understood that the pipe (20) includes two ends and it is not new matter to define the end mounted to the swivel coupling (30) as the first end (20a). Similarly, paragraph [0034] has been amended to recite the first end (20a) of the pipe (20). Because the as-filed specification fully discloses all of the limitations of the current claims sufficient to show that Applicants were in possession of the application on the filing date, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants via telephone at (312) 222-8124 if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen C. Smith
Registration No. 56,250
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

Amendments to the drawings:

Please substitute drawing sheets 3 and 4 with Replacement sheets 3 and 4 that are attached to this paper at Appendix A and include FIGs. 5-8. FIGs. 6-8 are amended to add element number 20a to correspond to the first end of the pipe 20. FIG. 5 is unchanged. No new matter has been entered. Applicants also attach Annotated sheets 3 and 4 that show the changes to FIGs. 6-8 made in Replacement sheets 3 and 4.

APPENDIX A

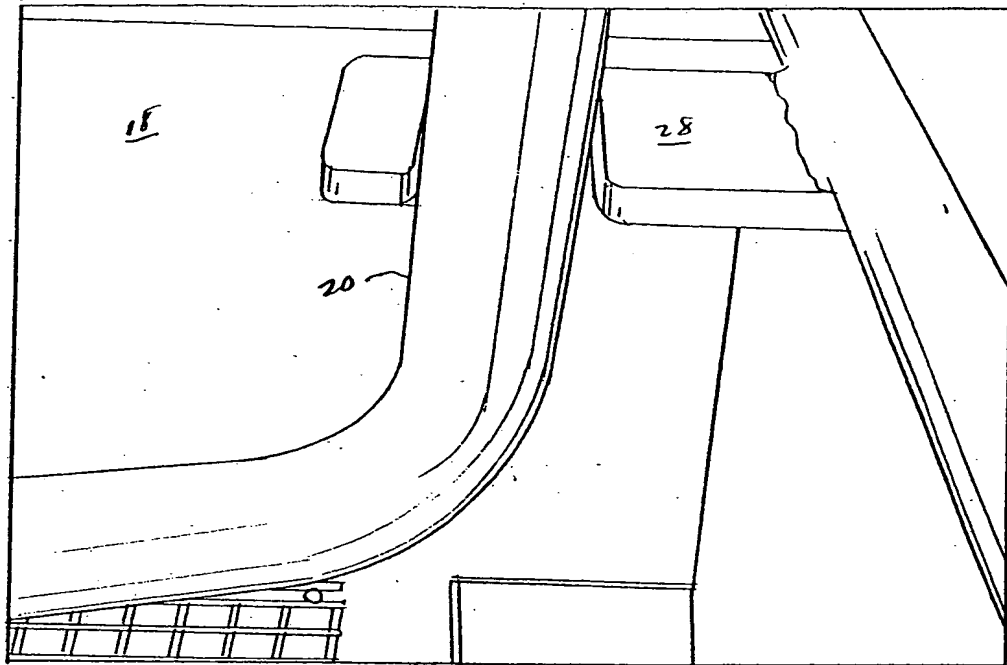


FIG. 5

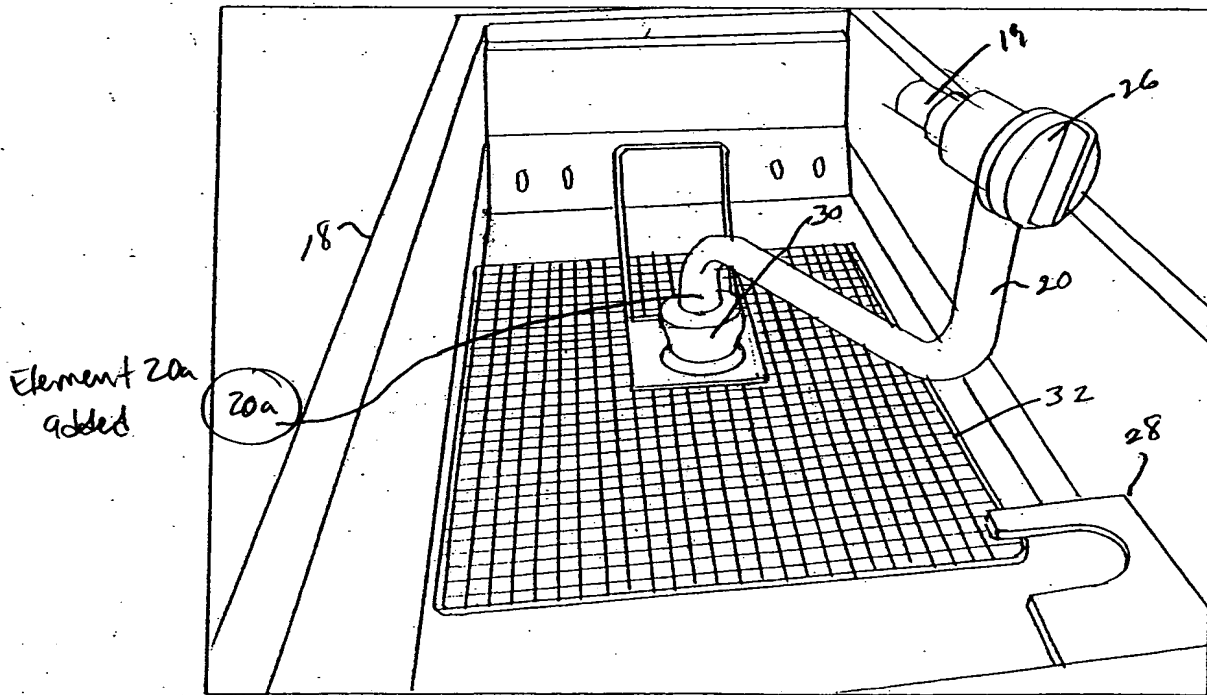


FIG. 6

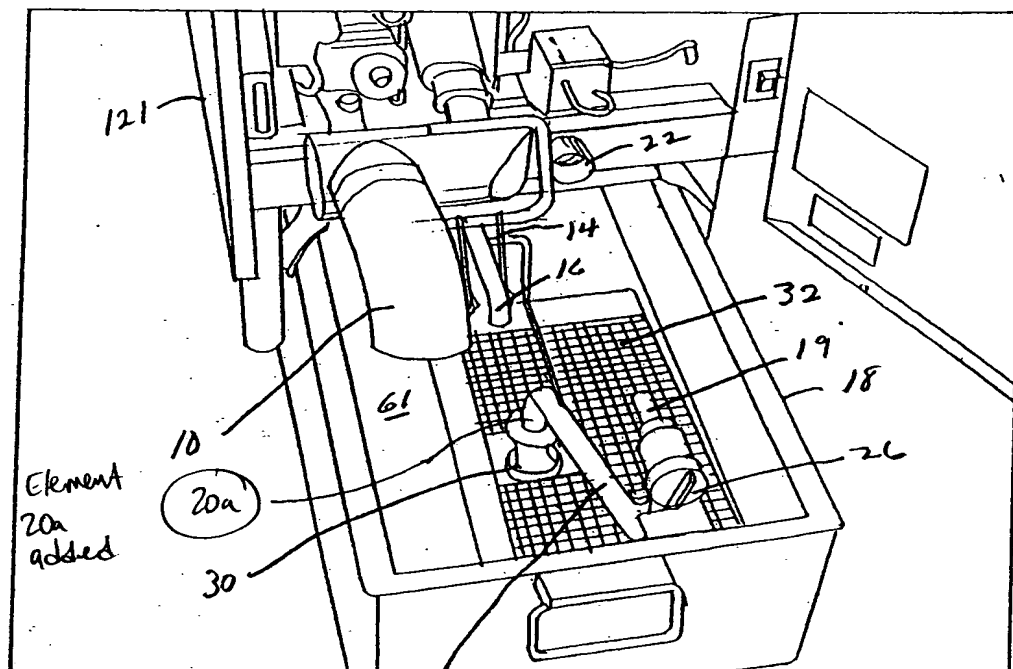


FIG. 7

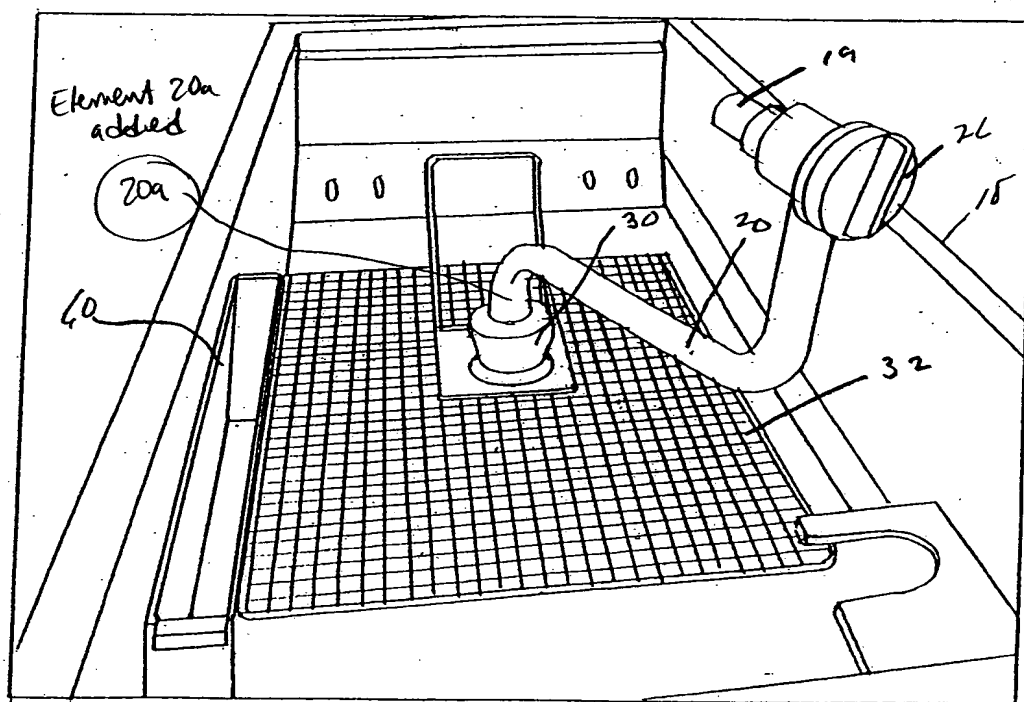


FIG. 8